

***SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD***  
***Will hold a public discussion on the Nation's disability system***  
***on***  
***Wednesday, July 19 2006***  
***1:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.***  
***Carnegie Endowment for International Peace***  
***1779 Massachusetts Ave, NW***  
***Washington DC 20036***

The Social Security Advisory Board will be holding a public discussion on the Nation's disability system from 1:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 19, 2006.

The Social Security Advisory Board is an independent, bipartisan Board created by the Congress in 1994 to advise the President, the Congress, and the Commissioner of Social Security on matters relating to the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income programs. This discussion is part of the Board's ongoing efforts to respond to this charge.

### **A New Look at America's Disability System**

Over the course of this year, the Board has been looking at a national approach to disability programs, with a view toward developing a description of a disability system that maximizes economic self-sufficiency at a reasonable standard of living. The new system would be consistent with the principles of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and would facilitate equal opportunity, independent living, and full participation in the labor force.

A model for a 21<sup>st</sup> century system should:

- Provide assistance and support to individuals and strive to maximize employment outcomes to the extent of each individual's capabilities.
- Facilitate a culture shift within society to establish the expectation that individuals with disabilities can and should work to the extent of their capabilities, and that society should assist individuals with disabilities in that endeavor.
- Recognize and accommodate the dynamic nature of disability and its sometimes cyclical impact on work capacity.
- Facilitate rehabilitation and employment by coordinating and integrating the various sources of assistance and support that are now inconsistently provided by multiple uncoordinated programs.

### **What the Board Would Like to Hear From You**

We are holding the public discussion to gather thoughts and perspectives on, "if you had a blank slate, how would you design the disability system?" In particular, the Board would like to hear your recommendations on how to arrive at a disability system such as one that the Board envisions.

The session will convene at 1:15 p.m. and will begin with a series of short presentations that will offer some possible conceptual models for changes in the disability system as it affects adults and children. An open discussion and question and answer period will follow.

In October 2003, the Advisory Board released its report, *The Social Security Definition of Disability*, in which we concluded that the Nation must face up to the contradictions created in our current disability system. The report, available on our website at [www.ssab.gov](http://www.ssab.gov), will give you a sense of the Board's previous work and recommendations. The website also provides background information on the Board.

Seating is limited and we ask that you RSVP as soon as possible and no later than Monday, July 17, 2006. Please contact the Social Security Advisory Board at 202-475-7700 or by email at [roundtable@ssab.gov](mailto:roundtable@ssab.gov).